A
PARTNERSHIP
for
GROWTH
and
DEVELOPMENT

"Partnership implies solidarity: standing shoulder to shoulder and helping those less equipped to cope with a more competitive global economy. UNCTAD must and will remain the guardian of the world's development conscience, striving for greater equity and a narrowing of disparities between nations"

Rubens Ricupero,
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Established in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental body, UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly in the field of trade and development.

Focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Main goals are to maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries, and to help them face challenges arising from globalization and integrate into the world economy, on an equitable basis.

Fields of activity UNCTAD pursues its goals through research and policy analysis, intergovernmental deliberations, technical cooperation, and interaction with civil society and the business sector.

Membership Currently 188 member States. Many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have observer status and participate in its work.

Secretariat Located in Geneva, Switzerland; the 394 staff members form part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Secretary-General Mr. Rubens Ricupero

Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Carlos Fortin

Annual operational budget Approximately US$ 50 million, drawn from the United Nations regular budget.

Technical co-operation activities Approximately US$ 24 million per year, financed from extra-budgetary resources provided by donor and beneficiary countries, as well as by organizations.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD IX, held in Midrand, South Africa, in 1996, adopted a revised mandate for the organization as well as the most far-reaching reforms in its history. Entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development", the final document resulted in:

- a refined, and more focused, work programme
- a streamlined intergovernmental machinery
- a complete restructuring of the secretariat
- a slimmed-down administrative and management structure
- closer involvement of civil society in the organization's work
- improved coordination with other organizations

Cooperation within the UN and with other organizations

UNCTAD works closely with:

- UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UNDP, the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization, UNIDO, and WIPO, as well as other multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the regional economic commissions.

It also collaborates with:

- a wide range of economic cooperation organizations, including the OECD and regional integration groupings of developing countries, as well as with the 132-member Group of 77 developing countries, and many other national and international organizations.

"UNCTAD IX was a major milestone in the renewal of UNCTAD...we succeeded in reforming [its] intergovernmental machinery and in refocusing its work...to promote development through trade and investment with the aim of facilitating the integration of developing countries in the international trading system."
G7 Communique, Lyon, France - June 1996

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS

UNCTAD undertakes the following tasks:

Globalization and Development Strategies

Examines trends in the global economy and evaluates their impact upon the development process
Undertakes macroeconomic policy analysis in the context of interdependence among countries and sectors of the economy
Analyzes specific development challenges and successful experiences, and draws lessons for developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy
Studies questions related to financial flows and indebtedness, and helps developing countries manage their debt
Develops databases and provides statistical information related to trade and development

International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities

Helps developing countries, particularly the least developed, to maximize the positive impact of globalization and liberalization on sustainable development by helping them integrate effectively into the international trading system
Analyzes the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on trade and development, and helps countries respond to the opportunities arising therefrom, including through enhancement of their export capabilities
Promotes diversification by commodity-dependent developing countries, and assists them in managing trade-related risks
Promotes the integration of trade, environment and development; and, acts as task manager in this area for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development
Analyzes issues related to competition law and policy, and assists countries in formulating policies and legislation, and in institution-building

"The Midrand Declaration has infused [UNCTAD] with new life and put Africa back on the map."
Mail and Guardian (South Africa) - May 1996

Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development

Examines global trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) flows; the interrelationships between FDI, trade, technology and development; and the development implications of a possible multilateral framework on investment
Analyzes policies and mechanisms to support the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
Identifies policies to favour technological capacity-building and innovation in developing countries, and technology flows to them
Undertakes science, technology and innovation policy reviews, to identify options for national action
Assists developing countries to promote inward investment and improve their investment climate
Helps developing countries exploit opportunities for enterprise development
Supports the development of entrepreneurship and innovation training programmes in developing countries

Services Infrastructure for Development, and Trade Efficiency

Helps developing countries and countries in transition improve the efficiency of their trade-supporting services through technical cooperation programmes
Supports the formulation of national policies and regulations promoting services infrastructure for development, trade facilitation and trade efficiency
Assists developing countries in assessing the efficiency of their trade-supporting services and in implementing best practices, following the 1994 UN International Symposium on Trade Efficiency
Promotes global electronic commerce by facilitating access to information technologies for all actors in international trade, particularly through the Global Trade Point Network
Contributes to the development of new services to assist the informal sector and micro-enterprises, particularly in the area of micro-credit
Helps alleviate the developmental impediments faced by land-locked and island developing countries resulting from their high transport costs

"Perhaps UNCTAD's greatest innovation is...entrepreneurial bureaucrats."
The Economist (UK) - July 1992

Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries

Coordinates UNCTAD's work on least developed countries (LDCs), including the follow-up to the October 1997 High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development and the provision of technical assistance in the form of Integrated Country Programmes
Assesses the economic and social performance of LDCs in the context of their international and domestic environments
Helps implement the *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, and the *Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation Between Land-Locked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community*
Manages the Kenneth Dadzie Trust Fund for LDCs, an internal funding mechanism designed to support, and promote, new activities in the main substantive fields of UNCTAD's work

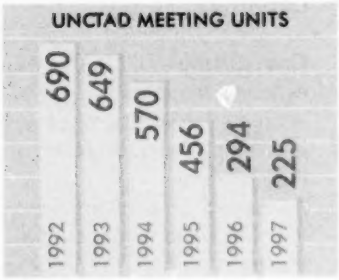
Cross-Sectoral Issues

The following cross-cutting issues are integrated in every aspect of UNCTAD's work:

- least developed, land-locked and island developing countries
- the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)
- sustainable development
- poverty alleviation
- the empowerment of women
- economic co-operation among developing countries

"As we approach the new millenium, UNCTAD, as a universal forum for intergovernmental deliberations, negotiations and consensus building, should be at the forefront of international efforts to promote the development of developing countries, particularly the least developed and small vulnerable economies."
Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, UNCTAD IX, Midrand, South Africa - May 1996

A REFORMED UNCTAD



The work programme's focus on issues of practical value to developing countries has been complemented since UNCTAD IX by far-reaching institutional reforms:

- 25 separate work programmes and sub-programmes replaced by one programme consisting of five sub-programmes
- nine divisions reduced to four
- number of intergovernmental bodies halved; meeting units cut from 690 in 1992 to 225 in 1997

SECRETARIAT STRUCTURE

Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (GDS)
Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC)
Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development (DITE)
Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency (SITE)
Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries (OSC-LDC)

Work in the divisions and the OSC-LDC corresponds to the schema described in the preceding pages.

Executive and administrative support is provided through the offices of **Executive Direction and Management (EDM)**; the **Administrative Service**; and the **Intergovernmental Support Service**.

EDM provides management policy and legal advice; coordinates technical assistance; handles external relations; promotes cooperation between UNCTAD and other organizations; and ensures the planning, coordination and assessment of work programmes.

"We welcome the recent reforms in the governance of the funds and programs, as well as in the various UN bodies, in particular at UNCTAD...."
G8 Communique, Denver, USA - June 1997

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

The Conference

UNCTAD's highest policy-making body: 188 member States.
The Conference meets every four years at Ministerial level to formulate policy guidelines and set work priorities.
UNCTAD X is scheduled to be held early in the year 2000, in Thailand.

The Trade and Development Board

Open to all UNCTAD members, the Board currently comprises 144 States.
As the governing body of UNCTAD, the Board:

Meets in Geneva during the intervals between Conferences
Examines interdependence and global economic trends from a trade and development perspective
Reviews implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and UNCTAD's contribution to UN-NADAF
Ensures the overall consistency of UNCTAD's activities
Reviews the secretariat's work priorities, and technical co-operation activities
Ensures co-ordination with other international organizations

Regular sessions

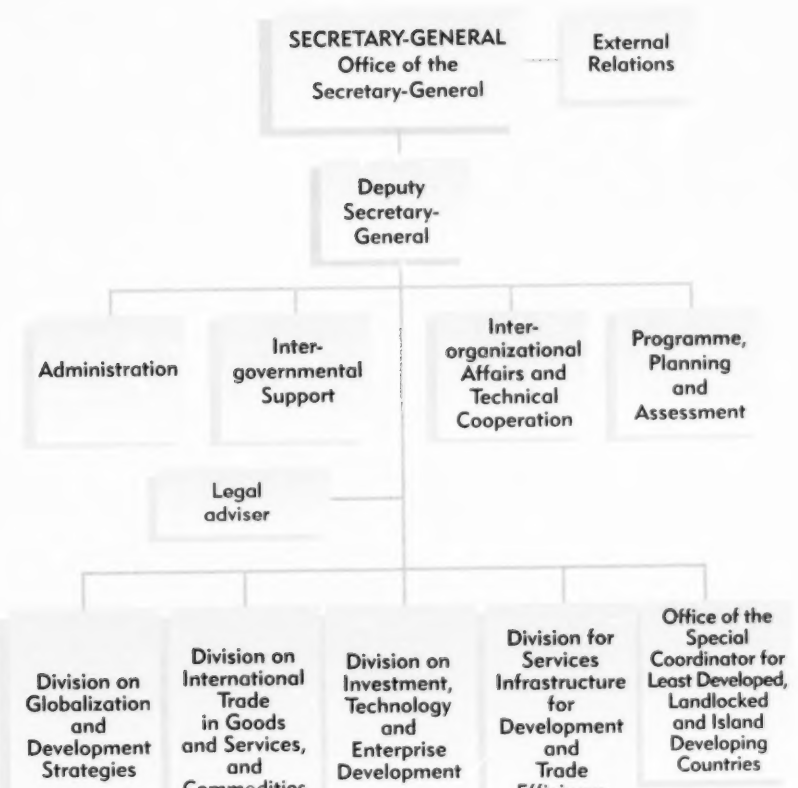
Take place every autumn, for up to 10 working days.
One day is devoted to a public discussion of a topical policy issue, with the participation of senior officials, as well as leading businessmen, academics and other public figures.

Executive sessions

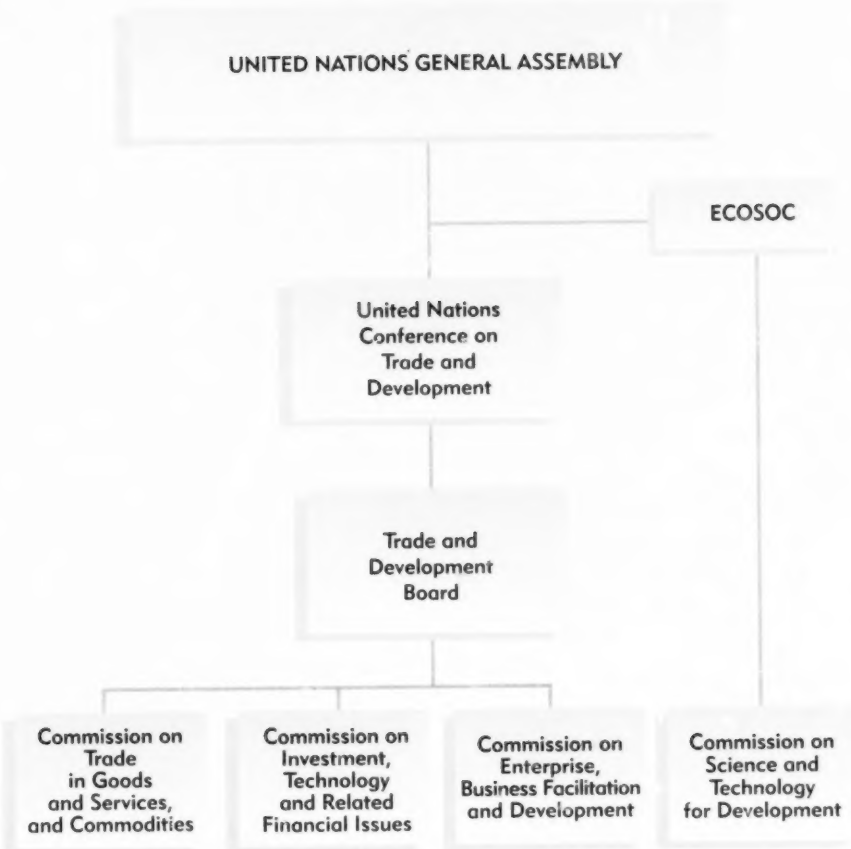
The Board meets up to three times a year for one day in executive session to deal with urgent policy issues as well as management and institutional matters.

"The role of UNCTAD remains of utmost relevance. The contribution of UNCTAD to economic development [has] offered hope to billions of people. With confidence in the future of UNCTAD, Thailand has offered to host UNCTAD X in the year 2000."
Amnuay Viravan, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Midrand, South Africa - April 1996

THE SECRETARIAT


SECRETARY-GENERAL
Office of the Secretary-General
External Relations
Deputy Secretary-General
Administration
Inter-governmental Support
Inter-organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation
Programme, Planning and Assessment
Legal adviser
Division on Globalization and Development Strategies
Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development
Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency
Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE


UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ECOSOC
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Trade and Development Board
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Commissions of the Board

- **Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities**
- **Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues**
- **Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development**

Commissions usually meet once a year for five days. In addition, the Commissions may convene up to ten **expert meetings** a year. These examine issues in depth and provide technical expertise on policy issues under consideration by the Commissions.

UNCTAD actively associates civil society and the private sector with its intergovernmental machinery, where appropriate. Experts from academia and business are invited to participate as panellists in sessions of the Commissions and take part fully in expert meetings.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN UNCTAD

UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities:

Enhance the human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries in transition to strengthen their policy and institutional environment for development
Improve the ability of countries to participate fully in the world economy, particularly in international trade, finance and investment
Help developing countries obtain a better understanding of, and help provide solutions to, their international economic problems
Strengthen the negotiating capacities of developing countries as regards international trade, finance and investment

'UNCTAD has a particular mission on behalf of the developing countries. It can play an important role in policy formulation and policy guidance. Without such policies, the struggle for economic progress will be a losing battle.' ***Kari Nordheim-Larsen, Minister for Development Cooperation of Norway, Midrand, South Africa - May 1996***

UNCTAD's technical co-operation strategy is defined by its:

- demand-driven nature
- focus on human and institutional capacity-building
- priority to least developed countries, through their increased share of technical co-operation activities
- integration with UNCTAD's analytical work and its support for intergovernmental deliberations
- flexibility in the forms of technical co-operation and in modes of delivery
- co-operation and partnership with other organizations

Funding

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); European Commission; development financing institutions (in particular the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank) and foundations, and individual countries. Principal bilateral donors include: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Increasingly, developing countries are financing UNCTAD's technical co-operation activities in their own countries.

Projects

Over 300 are currently being implemented in more than 100 countries, for an annual delivery of approximately US$ 24 million (1996-97 biennium).

Examples:

- ***Technical assistance on issues relating to the multilateral trading system***

Focus on capacity-building in trade policy formulation and implementation; identification and treatment of current and pending international and trade issues; assistance to countries acceding to the WTO.

- ***ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Integrated Programme of Technical Assistance for Africa***

Enhances development prospects and competitiveness of African countries through increased participation in international trade. Emphasis on human resource development and institutional capacity-building, strengthening of export supply capabilities.

"UNCTAD is the only intergovernmental body within the UN system for a comprehensive review of trade, development and related issues. The organization has provided help to China for economic and trade development."
Wu Yi, Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of China, Midrand, South Africa - April 1996

- ***Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS)***

Computer-based debt management system assists developing countries and countries in transition develop appropriate administrative, institutional and legal structures for effective foreign and domestic public debt management.

- ***Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)***

Applying state-of-the-art technology, the system assists governments to reform and modernize customs procedures and management. Used by more than 60 countries, ASYCUDA is fast becoming the internationally accepted standard for customs automation.

- ***The Trade Point programme***

Creation of trade facilitation centres to reduce trade transaction costs and provide small and medium-sized enterprises with better access to trade-related information, services, and global networks, using modern information technology. Some 114 countries participate.

- ***Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS)***

Comprehensive PC-based information system, using UNCTAD's Database on Trade Control Measures supplemented with other material. CD-ROM versions cover 86 countries.

- ***Management of transport routes: Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS)***

Tool-box of computer applications designed to produce management information to address multimodal cargo transit and transport problems. Assists African countries to develop their transport sector, using computer technology to track cargo along land and sea routes.

- ***Commodity marketing and price risk management***

Inter-country and country-level workshops increase developing countries' knowledge of export marketing; further understanding of commodity price risks and capacity to formulate risk management policies and instruments; and encourage the growth of commodity exchanges.

"During the first year of operations...a revenue increase of US$215 million, or 23 per cent, was recorded [at one point of entry.]"
Independent expert evaluation of an ASYCUDA project, October 1997

- ***Multilateral framework on investment***

Build national capacity in developing countries and countries in transition, through training and advice, to help them participate effectively in discussions on a possible multilateral framework on investment.

- ***Enterprise development***

The EMPRETEC Programme promotes entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises development. An information network provides entrepreneurs with access to business databases.

- ***Global greenhouse gas emissions trading***

Promotes market-based tools as cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions abatement mechanisms; assists States party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in the negotiation and implementation of a protocol to the Convention.

- ***The TRAINFORTRADE programme***

Training in commodity trading, trade policies and trade perspectives to develop human resources for international trade, enabling developing countries to enhance their competitiveness.

- ***Training maritime management (TRAINMAR)***

Training programme for policy-makers and senior management in the areas of port planning, port investment and pricing, port management, and development and management of container terminals; multimodal transport; freight forwarding; and chartering.

Technical Cooperation Expenditure by region, 1997 (estimate)

"[For businessmen] one important way of learning about emissions trading would be to get involved in a pilot programme being launched by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development."
Financial Times (UK) - December 1997

UNCTAD'S RECORD

Over the past three decades, intergovernmental negotiations held under UNCTAD's auspices have resulted in many international agreements.

Trade

- Generalized System of Preferences (1971): Over US$ 70 billion p.a. of developing country exports receive preferential treatment in developed country markets due to the GSP
- Agreement on a Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries (1989)
- Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (1980)
- Global Trade Point Network (GTPNet), following the UN International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (1994)

Commodities

- International commodity agreements, including those for cocoa, sugar, natural rubber, jute and jute products, tropical timber, tin, olive oil and wheat
- The Common Fund for Commodities, set up to provide financial backing for the operation of international stocks and for R&D projects in the field of commodities (1989)

Debt and Development

- More than 50 poor developing countries have benefitted from debt relief of over $6.5 billion since a resolution on the retroactive adjustment of terms of the ODA debt of low-income developing countries was approved by the Board (1978)
- Guidelines for international action in the area of debt rescheduling (1980)

"Since its creation...UNCTAD has made a major contribution to international cooperation for development. Its role has evolved in response to changing needs and circumstances, while preserving its development mission..."

Declaration by Trade and Development Board, Geneva, Switzerland - September 1994

Least developed, Land-locked and Transit developing countries

UNCTAD has played a leading role in mobilizing international support for the LDCs, including through:

- Agreement on a Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community (1995)
- Special New Programme of Action for the LDCs (1981)
- Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s (1990)

Transport

- UN Convention on Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences (1974)
- UN Convention on International Carriage of Goods by Sea (1978)
- UN Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods (1980)
- UN Convention on Conditions for the Registration of Ships (1986)
- UN Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages (1993)

UNCTAD's work has also prompted or facilitated the following decisions :

- Agreement on ODA targets, including the 0.7 per cent of GNP target for developing countries in general and the 0.15 per cent target for LDCs
- Improvement of the International Monetary Fund's Compensatory Financing Facility for export earnings shortfalls of developing countries
- Creation of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the IMF
- Reduction of commercial bank debt for the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs)

"UNCTAD is eminently qualified to inject a sense of direction into the globalization and liberalization process toward a world economy that will be more just and equitable."
Ida Bagus Sudjana, Minerals and Energy Minister of Indonesia, Midrand, South Africa - May 1996

ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

Trade and Development Report

Analyzes current global economic performance, regional trends and the interaction of trade, investment and financial flows
Discusses development strategies and current policy issues of interest to developing countries
Serves as a basis for the Board's discussion on interdependence and the economic prospects of developing countries

World Investment Report

Analyzes trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide and at the regional and country levels
Provides a balanced view on the interrelationship between FDI and transnational corporations
Proposes policy recommendations to further FDI as an important element for development
Serves as a background document for discussions on FDI and its relation to trade and development

Least Developed Countries Report

Identifies major challenges facing LDCs and monitors international support measures
Comprehensive and authoritative source of socio-economic analysis and data on the 48 LDCs
Serves as a background document for the Board's examination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s

Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics

Provides a comprehensive collection of statistics relevant to an analysis of world trade and development
Covers basic indicators of development, such as per capita GDP and growth rates, as well as external financial indicators, such as balance of payments, FDI, financial resource flows and debt

Review of Maritime Transport

Examines trends in seaborne trade and analyzes the comparative performance of different geographic regions. Focuses in particular on developing countries

Other Publications

The annual **Guide to UNCTAD Publications** lists other periodic and occasional studies, analyses and working papers.

Up-to-date information on publications, meetings, and other activities may be obtained by consulting the **UNCTAD website at:**
http://www.unctad.org.
The website also contains all UNCTAD press releases.

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